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Monday, June 17, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Department of Vector Control seeks support for an entomology lab on Aruba



Wilmer Salazar, Roque Dirksz and Clayton Croes

Over the week beginning Monday, June 10, Aruba's Department of Vector Control, under the direction of Roque Dirksz, was very pleased to welcome Dr. Matias Reyes Lugo of the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Central University of Venezuela, to conduct a study of Aruba's mosquito population. He was sent here via a request to the Pan American Health Organization, PAHO.

For four days, Dr. Reyes worked with Vector Control staffers and scientists, venturing into Aruba's mangroves to collect and identify the various species of mosquito found on the island. "Such a study has not been done for thirty years," explained a staff member, "it was time for us to update our information." Re-

sults confirmed that Aruba's mosquito population is still, after 30 years, comprised of the same four species.



Dr Reyes

The one that is of particular concern to Vector Control and the Department of Health is the *Aedes aegypti*, which can transmit Dengue Fever. Dengue is an RNA virus within the

genus that includes yellow fever virus, West Nile virus and other debilitating diseases that can be carried by the *Aedes aegypti*. Presently, only Dengue is an issue on Aruba.

The principal point brought across by Dr. Reyes while summarizing his study was that Aruba would benefit greatly by establishing an entomology lab on the island. The tropical climate of Aruba makes the issue of insect bites and stings a year-round concern, and the possibility of what diseases or parasites they may carry. Being an arid island, with heavy winds, helps reduce the risk greatly. However, the increased frequency of excessive rainfall during more severe storm seasons has resulted in rising Dengue statistics over the last decade.

Aruban Clayton Croes was introduced, who obtained his Bachelors Degree in Biomedical Science, specializing in the transmission of diseases via insects. He would head such a laboratory, "which could serve all of the islands of the Dutch Caribbean" asserted Dr. Willmar Salazar of the Department of Health. The lab was one of a five-point plan presented by Dr. Reyes, which included continual education and training and updating for the personnel of Vector Control. Another point is the informed technicians would then monitor all port entries for the possible presence of dangerous insects, often hidden among imported comestibles, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, or decorative plants. The staff speculate that palm trees imported from Arizona to decorate hotel grounds may have brought the Brown Recluse Spider to Aruba, formally unknown on the island. A case was reported last year of a youngster reacting to a spider bite, and the venom of this spider is believed to be the cause.



Field trip into mangroves

Continued on page 4

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Turkey PM says 'duty' to oust protesters as clashes rage

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday told a crowd of more than 100,000 supporters it was his "duty" to order a crackdown on an Istanbul protest park, as police and anti-government demonstrators faced off in fresh clashes.

A full day after riot police dislodged thousands of protesters occupying Gezi Park, officers in the city were still firing tear gas and jets of water at pockets of protesters determined to regroup.

Some 10 kilometres (six miles) away, in a much bigger park, Erdogan put on a show of strength for supporters of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), drawing

the largest crowd yet since the demos against his government erupted more than two weeks ago. Addressing the cheering sea of people, many of whom wore white AKP caps, a combative Erdogan said protesters had forced his hand by defying repeated warnings to clear out of the park.

The violence sparked by the Gezi Park evacuation marked a major escalation in mass unrest that has posed the biggest challenge yet to the Islamic-rooted government's decade-long rule.

Two of Turkey's main trade union federations announced they would go on strike today in protest at the latest police clashes.

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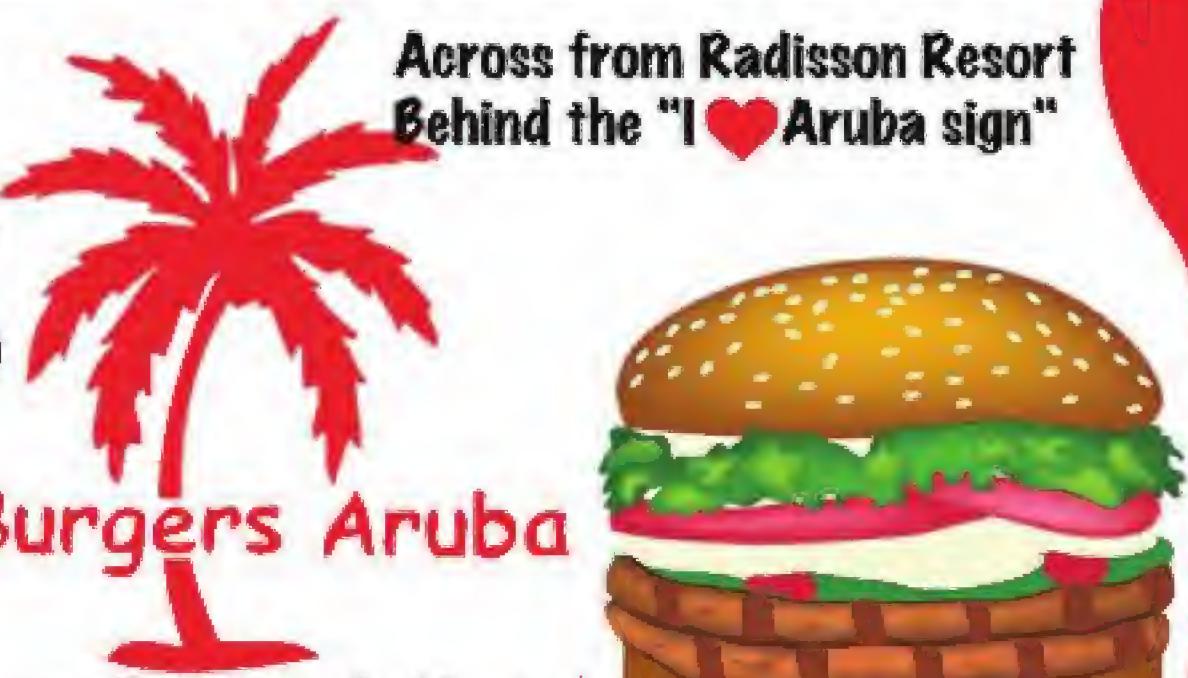
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Aruba Civil Registry Bureau held PIVA-platform conference here



ORANJESTAD -- During the last weeks of May an annual congress of PIVA (Persoonsinformatie Voorziening Aruba en Antillen) (Personal Information and Services for Aruba and the Antilles) was held here on Aruba. At this congress all the Civil and Census Bureau of the different countries in the Dutch Kingdom (Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten and the Dutch Caribbean) came together to discuss matters related to efficiency with our similar automation systems as well as the changes in the law of the Dutch Kingdom. Discussions were also held regarding the modernization of Citizens Issues in general.

Thirty representatives from the various islands to include,

Saba, St. Maarten, Curacao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Office of the Governors of the various islands and Ministers of Interior Relations of the Dutch Kingdom in Holland participated in the congress.

Emphasis was placed on the professionalism, improvement of communication and the fortification of the links between the islands and Holland and how to invest in this effort.

The "Nederlands Vereniging Voor Burgerzaken" (NVVB), which is one of the institutions representing Civil Registry Bureau's area of education for the Dutch Kingdom also participated in the congress.

Every island made a presentation about the number of clients they serve and of the

products they offer and some of their different projects. Aruba excelled in the large number of clients that are attended to daily by their staff.

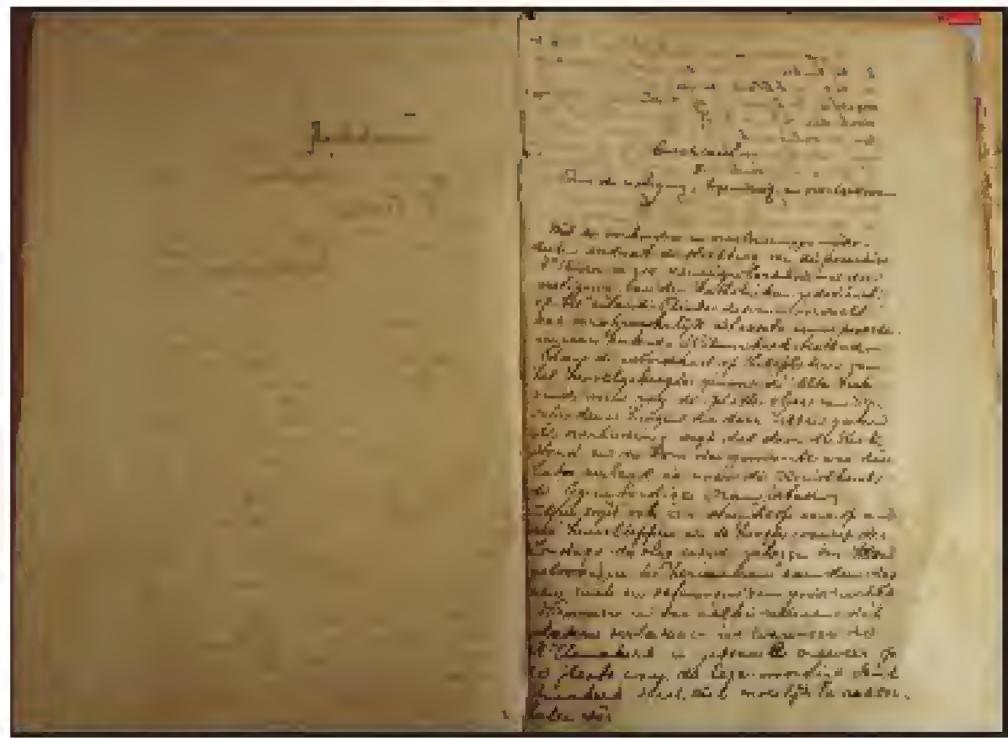
The Aruba Civil Registry and Census Bureau services no less than 2,700 persons per week, which is 25% more than the largest island in the Dutch Caribbean, which is Curacao.

Aruba does this with a difference of two staff members for every 1000 persons compared with Curacao which has 4 employees for every 1000 persons. This proves that Aruba offers more services to more clients with fewer personnel compared to Curacao.

Aruba also presented a total of 16 projects that have been realized out of 24 projects to be executed. For this reason the Dutch islands decided to visit Aruba for the PIVA-Platform. They were interested in seeing some of the projects, such as the new client referral system and the automated passport archive, of which Aruba is the pioneer in the Caribbean.

Aruba's Census and Civil Registry Bureau is a true leader in many of the aspects of daily work, control, efficiency and implementation of automated systems.

Kronijkboek Noord 1898 has been digitalized and printed



ORANJESTAD -- In 2012, Pastor Santiago of the Santa Anna Parish let known that he wanted to preserve a few of the remaining books of the history of the Santa Anna Church.

He decided to attempt two matters. One was to digitalize these books. That meant to have them typewritten so as to create a book, and to restore the books. He approached the National Aruba Archives Bureau

Continued on page 3

Europcar



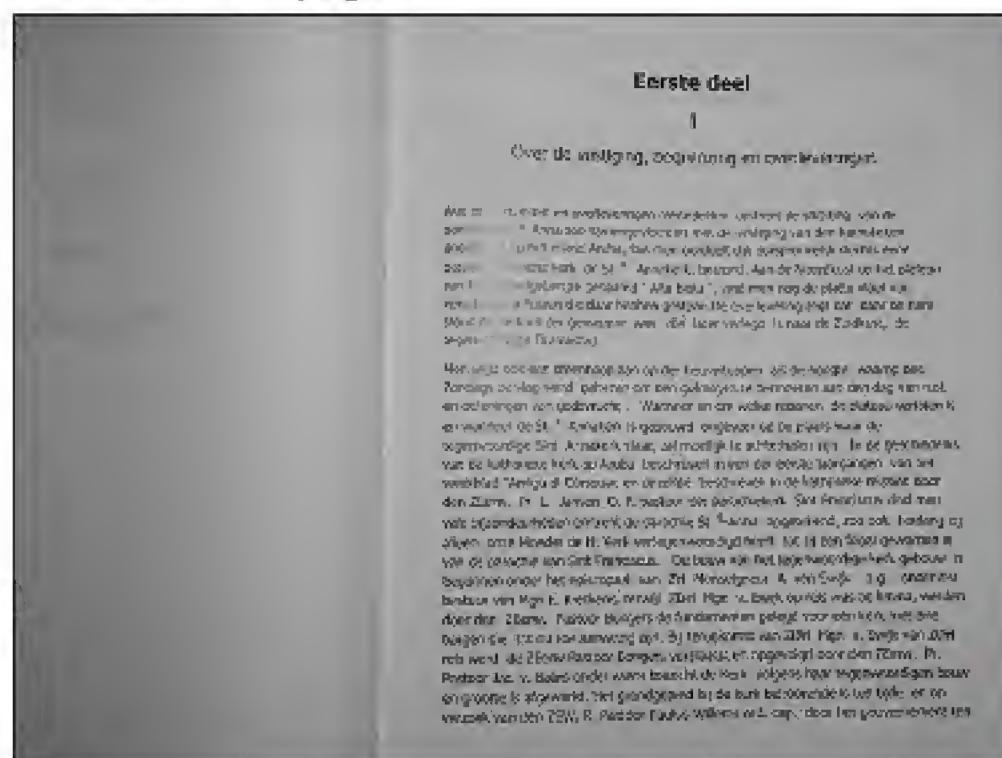
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Kronijkboek Noord 1898 has been digitalized and printed

Continued from page 2



In the meantime, Maria Sapuana-Figarua began the type-writing work of these books. Today they are pleased to announce that after working one year the first Kronijkboek Noord has been completed. The manuscript has been presented to the National Archives to produce a few books. Today, they are happy to announce that those books are completed. The books have been presented to Priest Jan Gospodarczyk, one of the Priests of the Santa Anna Parish. Priest Santiago is currently on vacation.

The Kronijkboek Noord recounts the history of Noord and of Aruba from the years 1988 to 1936. It recounts the stories of religion, educational aspects, politics, culture and sports of Noord and Aruba. It

tells how the Dominican Priests worked in the communities of Aruba, and how the people of Noord practiced their faith with vigor and valor.

Mrs. Maria has in the meantime begun working on the second Kronijkboek dating back from 1937. It is expected that this second book should take less time to produce. The hardest part of the job is to be able to read and decipher the letters and characters written by the priests who wrote the chronicles. What's more, the Dutch they used is also the Old Dutch language.

One decision yet to be taken is how these books will be presented to the general public, what book format to use and how the general public will get these chronicles.

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Celebrating the gift of life on World Blood Donors Day



Hospital Staff donors honored



Danilo Webb donates 64 times



Jose Luis Kock 51 times

The staff of Aruba's Blood Bank welcomed guests on Friday, June 14, for an informal celebration of World Blood Donors Day, reminding Aruba of their current campaign to increase the number of registered donors and the "Every Drop Counts!" This year is the 10th anniversary of World Blood Donors Day as declared by the World Health Organization, WHO.

Aruba's Blood Bank, in keeping with this year's theme of "The Gift of Life" invited Elvis Brete to tell his story of how five years of blood transfusions saved his life while battling pancreatic disease. Aruba is one of the few nations in the Caribbean that relies completely on voluntary donations, and they encourage islanders to come forward and donate regularly. The "Gift of Life" could save not only a stranger, but friend or loved one, someday.

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Continued on page 5

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Aruba National Park innovating steadily



Just recently, the Aruba National Park has introduced a new innovative project which every secondary school can make good use of for giving classroom instructions in a digital format. This is in keeping with the role that the National Park has since its founding back in 2000. This role is to promote and protect our fauna and flora.

As we know, the world of technology has brought many changes and children are interested in technology and the internet. Hence, the National Park has developed the first lesson package, "Onze Veel-

zijdige medicinale planten" (our many sided medicinal plants) in a digital format that schools can use. The package contains a teacher's guide, student guide, a quiz and other material.

The Fundacion Parke Arikok has much information for the general public, teachers and children on its website, which can be visited during the upcoming vacation period. On the website they will get much infor-

mation for their "show and tell" class sessions or for other school projects. The website address is: <http://www.arubanationalpark.org/>. The link to download the digital package is under the section: education/ education for schools/lesson packages. The program is in the Dutch language as it is the language of instruction in our schools.

The National Park exists since the year 2000 and manages 34 km² of property, has 48 employees and receives annually over 200 thousand visitors.



There are about 80 to 100 visitors per day, mostly tourists.

On the weekends you can see more locals visiting the park. The nicest areas to visit are the Natural Pool, The Fontein and the Boca Prins Caves. There are various other points of interest such as the Guadirikiri Cave, Dos Playa and the Arikok Cunucu. There is an entrance fee of Fls.5.00. There is also a year pass for Fls.28,00 or Fls.22,50 for an athletic year pass.

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Department of Vector Control seeks support...

Continued from page 1



Dr. Reyes in the field

Another point in Dr. Reyes' plan is training not only for Vector Control staff, but the public as well, regarding conditions to harbor dangerous insects and the proper use of insecticides. A survey of local markets by Dr. Reyes and close examination of the contents description of various insecticides sold freely, reveal that the products carried here contain chemicals considered well beyond U.S. or Venezuelan safety levels for general use in the home. Overuse and abuse could prove quite harmful. According to Dr. Reyes, the government must take a hard look at this situation and

undertake legislation to protect consumers.

The Director of the Department of Vector Control and his team feel that a great deal more attention must be paid to the five points. "Aruba is presently, relatively free of the dangerous diseases passed along by insect bites," he confirmed. "However, with the enormous influx of visitors annually, this situation could change easily. It only takes one person infected with Yellow or West Nile Fever and then bitten by a mosquito while on Aruba, to introduce the virus into the local mosquito population, thus passing it on. Only

a few years ago we had only two strains of Dengue on Aruba; now we have all four. This is the result of travelers bringing the virus to the island. Another thing to be monitored at entry ports-someone obviously sick, who may be carrying a communicable disease, which could then be established on the island on permanent basis."

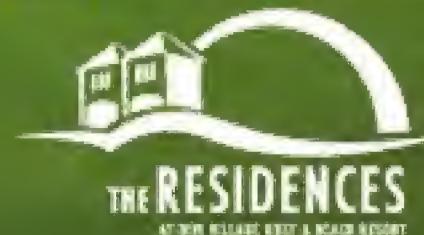


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Celebrating the gift of life...

Continued from page 3



Lucia Tromp Croes 40 times.

Blood bank personnel also honored those that do donate frequently, including three island institutions which run blood



Aruba Bloodbank team

drives among their employees, accounting for a very large percentage of the blood available when needed. These were SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company, the Central Bank of Aruba and Balashi Brewery N.V.

Hospital employees who are part of the donation program were also honored for their vigilance. Among the 18 who were awarded trophies and gifts for their regular contribution were Rebecca Hernandez, Brigida Croes and Isidora Krozendijk, who have donated blood 32 times each. Maria Gei have given 36 times and Lucia Tromp-Croes

40 times. Among the men staffers, Raymond Bikker donated 50 times, Stanley Ricao and Jose Luis Kock gave 51 times and Victor G. M. Kock 52. Danilo M. Webb, an orderly at the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital was the Blood Bank's #1 honoree, having donated blood 64 times.

The Blood Bank was also proud of its young, new generation of regular contributors, Antonia Vanessa Chatlein-Jansen, Andre Koolman, Chyslaine Croes, Indrah Zievinger and Frans Oduber, the last having donated 5 times.

Rosalie Klein



To Remember Those Who Never Returned



For many years, I have observed and realized that there was no adequate place to honor the ones who went out at sea and never returned.

Sometimes a family member would throw a wreath or some flowers into the water from a cliff or beach to honour their beloved ones.

There was no place that someone could sit for a moment to reflect on the past or their loved ones.

In our Memorial Park that we are going to build in Seroe Colorado we are also planning to put a statue to remember the lost ones.

Now I am very happy to read in the local newspapers, that Minister Otmar Oduber is planning to put at Governor's Beach, a monument for the ones who went out at sea and never returned.

This monument is long overdue.

I am happy and applaud Minister O. Oduber for this initiative.

By: Roland W. Peterson

INTERNATIONAL NEWS**Former VP Cheney
defends US spy programs**

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former vice president Dick Cheney yesterday defended recently revealed US spy programs, saying they were needed to prevent attacks and calling the man who leaked details about them a "traitor."

Cheney had played a key role in former president George W. Bush's administration when it developed and approved the National Security Agency surveillance tactics in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

"The reason we got into it was because we've been attacked -- and a worse attack than Pearl Harbor," he told Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday."

The worry, he added, was that future attackers would turn to "deadlier weapons than ever before" -- including nuclear and biological arms.

"When you consider somebody smuggling a nuclear device into the United States, it becomes very important to gather intelligence on your enemies and stop that attack before it ever gets launched," he said.

Asked about critics of the

programs, Cheney countered: "The allegation is out there that somehow we've got all this personal information on Aunt Fanny or Chris Wallace or whoever it might be and reported through it," he said.

"Not true, that's not the way it works."

Cheney said he understood people's concern about the secrecy of the programs, but added that disclosing sources and methods means "you're revealing it to your targets, to your adversaries, to the enemy."

In that vein, the former second in command called Edward Snowden, the 29-year-old former government contractor who exposed the widespread spying and has gone underground in Hong Kong, a "traitor."

"I think he has committed crimes in effect by violating agreements given the position he had," he said.

"I think it's one of the worst occasions in my memory of somebody with access to classified information doing enormous damage to the national security interests of the United States."

**Dramatic sea rescue in Italy,
900 migrants land in two days**

ROME (AFP) - Italy's coast guard rescued 95 migrants found clinging to a large tuna fishing cage off the shores of Sicily yesterday, as the number of people who landed in Italy over the weekend rose to over 900.

Rescuers pulled more than 250 people to safety yesterday as two boats crossing the Mediterranean got into difficulty and reports came in of dozens of people clinging desperately to the tuna cage out at sea, Italian media said.

More than 100 men from Eritrea were taken to Lampedusa island off the Sicilian coast, along with a further 55 people from a different boat, some of whom had jumped into the water at the sight of the coast guard.

On Saturday, some 690 immigrants were rescued from boats with engine trouble or dinghies that had begun taking on water, including a baby girl born during the crossing from Turkey.



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King: Jordan can protect itself from Syria war threats

AMMAN (AFP) - King Abdullah II vowed yesterday to protect Jordan from the war in Syria, after the United States announced its warplanes and missiles will remain in the kingdom at the end of military exercises.

"Should the world not act and help us adequately address this issue, and should this issue become a threat... then we are capable at any time to take the necessary measures to protect our country and people's interests," said the Jordanian ruler.

"In our handling of the Syrian crisis, the first and ultimate goal has been to protect Jordan's and Jordanians' interests," he told a university graduation ceremony.

The Pentagon on Saturday confirmed that US F-16 fighter jets and Patriot missile interceptors will remain in Jordan

after the end of a joint military exercise this month.

The king said Jordan was working with Arab nations as well as the United States, Russia and European countries "to find a political solution that preserves the unity and stability of Syria".

He told graduates at Muta University's military wing in the city of Karak that "the crisis in brotherly Syria... imposed on us some harsh realities. On the other hand, we are working to secure international financial assistance to cover the costs of hosting the refugees."

A US defence official said this week the Americans would also keep a unit of Marines on amphibious ships off the Red Sea coast after consultations with Jordan.

Washington is concerned about a possible spillover of

violence from Syria to its southern neighbour Jordan, a key US ally and one of only two Arab states to have signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Jordan is hosting nearly half a million Syrian refugees, and could serve as a conduit for the military support Washington has said it will give to rebels battling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Meanwhile, the king met EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and discussed with her "the dangerous repercussions of Syrian conflict for the region," a palace statement said.

"The king urged a political, transitional and comprehensive solution to the Syrian crisis," it added, quoting Ashton as "stressing that the EU will continue to help Jordan cope with the refugees".

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS**Crime-scarred Venezuela gets arms control law**

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro signed a gun control bill into law Friday in a bid to rein in the country's runaway violent crime.

"I hereby sign into law this gun control law, for peace in our nation," Maduro said in an address in Vargas state.

The bill will allow sentences of up to 20 years in prison for any civilian convicted of illegally carrying or selling a firearm.

It also restricts the sale of ammunition to civilians, and bans weapons from being shown in public places.

"Any arm that is confiscated will be destroyed immediately... the sales of weapons and ammunition also ends," said National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello.

There are some exceptions: people are allowed to use weapons to protect their property and themselves when in danger, and security personnel can use them when transporting valuable items.

The bill was promoted by late president Hugo Chavez, a leftist-populist in power since 1999 who died on March 5.

The ruling socialist party, or PSUV, and two opposition parties approved the bill.

In the first quarter of 2013, there were 3,400 murders. That followed another year of bloodletting that saw about 16,000 homicides nationwide in 2012, according to government data.

There were 15 million firearms -- legal and illegal -- in a country of 29 million in 2009.

Zuma: Mandela showing 'sustained' improvement

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela is showing a "sustained" improvement after more than a week in hospital battling a lung infection although his condition remains serious, South African President Jacob Zuma said yesterday.

"As you are aware, president Nelson Mandela is still in hospital in Pretoria. We are grateful that he continues to get better," Zuma said at a public rally.

"Over the last two days, although he remains serious, his doctors have stated that his improvement has been sustained. He continues to engage with family."

The frail 94-year-old anti-apartheid hero was admitted to a private Pretoria clinic in the early hours of June 8 because of a recurring lung infection, his fourth hospitalisation since December.

Mandela's latest health problems have seen South Africans come to terms with the mortality of the man regarded as the father of the "Rainbow Nation" as its first black president.

Zuma urged the nation to keep Madiba, Mandela's clan name by which he is affectionately known, in "our thoughts and prayers," as messages of support from the public continued to pour in.

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CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

5.8-magnitude quake strikes central Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - A 5.8-magnitude earthquake shook central Mexico early yesterday, sparking panic in the capital and some power cuts but no major damage or casualties were reported.

The quake struck just after midnight, east of the city of Huitzuco in Guerrero state, at a depth of about 30 miles (50 kilometers), according to Mexico's National Seismological Service and the US Geological Survey.

The officials downgraded the magnitude of the quake from 6.0 reported initially.

Although the quake was felt strongly in the capital, "in the preliminary report, Mexico City was not damaged," Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera reported.

Civil Protection chief Fausto Lugo said there was no reports of major incidents. But power was out in some areas of Mexico City, a local radio station reported, and the strong tremors sparked panic in some restaurants and bars, as customers hastily evacuated.

The international airport said on its social network account that there was "no dam-

age to our airport infrastructure after completing the review that we make as part of earthquake security protocols."

In the coastal resort city of Acapulco, an AFP reporter saw some tourists leave their hotels but said there were no reports of damage.

In the southern state of Oaxaca, there were also no injuries or damage, except "some people with panic attacks, who did not need to be hospitalized," the local Red Cross said.

An 8.1-magnitude earthquake in September 1985 destroyed part of Mexico City and killed 3,700 people, according to official figures. Civil groups put the death toll from the quake at around 20,000 people.

Assange hosts Ecuadorian foreign minister at London haven

LONDON (AFP) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange made a fleeting public appearance yesterday as he welcomed the Ecuadorian foreign minister to his refuge at the South American country's embassy in London.

Ricardo Patino said Assange was in "good spirits" despite the "limitations" of his accommodation.

The foreign minister is in Britain for a meeting with counterpart William Hague to try and find a solution to the impasse which has led to Assange spending one year in the embassy in a bid to avoid extradition to Sweden.

Assange and WikiLeaks insist that Britain's real aim in seeking to deport him to Sweden, where prosecutors want to quiz him over sex claims, is to send him to the United States.

Hague and Patino are searching for a diplomatic solution to the stalemate, which was triggered when Assange turned up at the embassy demanding asylum on June 19 last year.



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Health & Living

Australia cracks down on synthetic drugs



SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia imposed an interim ban on 19 synthetic cannabis and cocaine-like drugs on Sunday as part of a crackdown on the psychoactive substances which mimic the highs of their illegal counterparts.

Assistant Treasurer David Bradbury said the 19 products would be banned from sale and supply for up to 120 days under consumer laws, a measure which will give states and territories time to update their laws to ban them.

"Synthetic drugs are dangerous substances that can kill and should not be available for sale," Bradbury said.

Many synthetic drugs are already banned in parts of Australia, but Bradbury said the market was fast-moving and suppliers had shown a willingness to change brand names and packaging to get around bans made under consumer laws.

Australia's most populous state New South Wales temporarily banned synthetic drugs earlier this month after a 17-year-old Sydney boy fell to his death after taking a synthetic LSD product which made him believe he could fly.

Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare confirmed Sun-

day that the government will also develop legislation to ensure unauthorised synthetic drugs cannot be imported.

The move will mean that "new drugs coming onto the market are presumed to be illegal until the authorities know what they are and clear them as safe and legal".

Clare said a range of syn-

thetic drugs were being sold in Australia, including via the Internet. They mimicked the effects of cannabis, cocaine and methamphetamine and were being marketed as a legal alternative to illicit drugs.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction said 73 new psychoactive substances were detected on the market in 2012 -- compared to just 49 in 2011 -- and a greater proportion were from more obscure chemical groups.

"Many of the products on sale contain mixtures of substances, and the lack of pharmacological and toxicological data means it is hard to speculate on long-term health implications of use," the centre said in a report.

An Easy Stretch All Desk Workers Should Do



We know sitting at a desk all day is bad for us. But not everyone has a company gym membership or a workweek that allows for morning and afternoon fitness classes. So here an easy stretch that loosen the muscles made most stiff by sitting. No gym equipment or extended lunch hours required!

Neck and Shoulders.

Hunching over keyboards strains the cervical spine and stiffens our shoulders. On the next bathroom break, reach your arms behind you, and interlock your fingers so that your palms face. Lift your arms so you feel a stretch in your chest and front shoulders. Draw your chin down to avoid crunching the neck. (Of course, feel free to do this at your desk. Tell anyone who gawks to follow suit.)

Celebrities make nuclear video plea ahead of G8

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Hollywood stars including Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas and Morgan Freeman are calling on Group of Eight leaders meeting in Northern Ireland next week to eliminate nuclear arms.

Oscar-winning Austrian actor Christoph Waltz and Matt Damon are also among the stars lending their faces and voices to the two-minute video plea by the anti-nuclear campaign group Global Zero.

"The message from national security experts and citizens around the world is clear: the only way to eliminate the global nuclear danger is to eliminate all nuclear weapons," says "Basic Instinct" star Douglas.

"It's time to set the world's course to zero," he adds.

Freeman says: "Nuclear weapons are obsolete relics of the Cold War, they do not address today's security threats, and they cost \$1 trillion per decade globally ... It's time we get rid of them."

Global Zero co-founder Matt Brown said the video was intended to appeal to US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, due to meet on the sidelines of the G8 summit today and Tuesday.

"To set the world's course to zero nuclear weapons,

President Obama will have to go beyond the bilateral process President (Ronald) Reagan started of US-Soviet/Russian arms reductions and bring the other leading nuclear powers into international arms negotiations for the first time in history," he said.

Other actors in the video -- which can be seen at www.globalzero.org -- include Alec Baldwin, John Cusack, Danny DeVito, Whoopi Goldberg, Zoe Kravitz, Martin Sheen and Naomi Watts.

Leaders of the G8 countries -- the United States, Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Japan, Italy and Canada -- will gather at Northern Ireland's exclusive Lough Erne golf resort.

The talks will likely be dominated by the Syrian war after the United States accused the regime of using chemical weapons, while the British hosts are determined to push a crackdown on tax evasion and boost global trade.

Global Zero added it has delivered a letter to the White House signed by some 75 former prime ministers, foreign and defense ministers, as well as military commanders, urging him to eliminate nuclear arms.

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Sci-Tech

Solar plane lands in Washington on US tour



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The solar-powered Solar Impulse aircraft landed near the US capital early Sunday on the second to last leg of its cross-country journey, organizers said.

The single-seater plane, which runs on four electric propellers powered by 12,000 solar cells mounted on its 63-meter wingspan, touched down smoothly in the dark at Dulles International Airport at 12:15 am (0415 GMT).

The Solar Impulse usually lands in the middle of the night, when airport traffic has subsided.

At the controls was Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard, who is taking turns with compatriot Andre Borschberg on the various legs of the flight across the United States.

"It might seem easy, but it's the result of a lot of work," Piccard said shortly after landing, highlighting a decade of effort, including developing the plane and studying historical and current weather records.

He said the flight has shown "we can achieve unbelievable things" with renewable energy, saying his plane is "so efficient, so reliable it can fly without any fuel day and night."

The plane will spend around two weeks in the Washington area and will be available for public visits at the Udvar-Hazy wing of

Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

The final leg of the cross-country journey will take the plane to New York City.

The aircraft can fly at night by reaching a high elevation of 27,000 feet (8,230 meters) and then gently gliding downward, using almost no power until the sun comes up to begin recharging the solar cells.

The flight from Cincinnati, Ohio took about 14 hours, after a 14-hour pit stop in the midwestern US city prompted by difficult weather.

The organizers had planned for the solar craft to fly directly from St. Louis, Missouri to Washington DC, but they said strong cross and head winds slowed down the aircraft.

Conditions were such that the flight to Washington would have taken longer than the self-imposed 24-hour time limit set for the pilot in the cramped cockpit.

The Solar Impulse project, founded and led by Piccard and Borschberg, aims to showcase what can be accomplished without fossil fuels, and has set as its "ultimate goal" a round-the-world flight in 2015.

The first leg of Solar Impulse's US tour took place on May 3, when Piccard flew the aircraft from San Francisco, California, to Phoenix, Arizona.

Google to beam Internet from balloons

CHRISTCHURCH (AFP) - Google revealed top-secret plans Saturday to send balloons to the edge of space with the lofty aim of bringing Internet to the two-thirds of the global population currently without web access.

Scientists from the technology giant released up to 30 helium-filled test balloons flying 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) above Christchurch in New Zealand Saturday, carrying antennae linked to ground base stations.

While still in the early stages, Project Loon hopes eventually to launch thousands of balloons to provide Internet to remote parts of the world, allowing the more than four billion people with no access to get online.

It could also be used to help after natural disasters, when existing communication infrastructure is affected.

"Project Loon is an experimental technology for balloon-powered Internet access," the company said on its latest project from its clandestine Google (x), "where we work on radical, sci-fi sounding technology solutions to solve really big world problems".

"Balloons, carried by the wind at altitudes twice as high as commercial planes, can beam Internet access to the ground at speeds similar to today's 3G networks or faster," it added.

"It is very early days, but we think a ring of balloons, flying around the globe on the stratospheric winds, might be a way to provide affordable Internet access to rural, remote, and underserved areas down on earth below, or help after disasters, when existing communication infrastructure is affected."

It works by ground stations connecting to the local Internet infrastructure and beaming signals to the balloons, which are self-pow-

ered by solar panels.

The balloons, which once in the stratosphere will be twice as high as commercial airliners and barely visible to the naked eye, are then able to communicate with each other, forming a mesh network in the sky.

Users below have an Internet antennae they attach the side of their house which can send and receive data signals from the balloons passing overhead.

Some 50 people were chosen to take part in the trial and were able to link to the Internet.

The first person to get Google Balloon Internet access was Charles Nimmo, a

farmer and entrepreneur in the small town of Leeston who signed up for the experiment.

He told the New Zealand Herald he received Internet access for about 15 minutes before the transmitting balloon he was relying on floated out of range.

"It's been weird," he told the newspaper. "But it's been exciting to be part of something new."

Google's ultimate goal is to have a ring of balloons -- each the length of a small light aircraft when fully inflated -- circling the Earth, ensuring there is no part of the globe that cannot access the web.



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- Land & Sea Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables
- Breaded Chicken Breast served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato
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FINANCE

Jittery markets await clarity from the Fed

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve's policy board meets tomorrow to review the economy and its stimulus program, and markets are looking for one thing: clarity.

After weeks of tumultuous stock market volatility and a sharp fall in bond prices, bankers, investors and anyone else with a vested interest are waiting to hear: is the Fed really about to reel in its quantitative easing program?

If so, could that be within months? Or will the US central bank wait for stronger economic growth to take that step?

The markets eagerly await any meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets the benchmark US dollar interest rate and, at the moment, continues to hold long-term rates down with its \$85 billion-a-month QE bond buying program.

But much more rides on this FOMC meeting tomorrow and Wednesday, because over the past month billions of dollars have been bet on an aggressive interpretation of comments by Fed chief Ben Bernanke that the Fed is about to turn the corner on five years of stimulus.

The belief that it will start tapering its bond purchases within months has sent bond prices plummeting and interest rates shooting up, and that, in turn, has pulled stocks lower, after they reached new records fueled by the Fed's easy money policy.

Yet US economic growth slowed slightly in the spring and remains at risk to slower growth around the world, and with the government slashing spending, Fed stimulus is still needed, economists say.

The Fed's guideposts, unemployment and inflation, remain far off their target for a "normalized" fiscal policy. The unemployment rate is hovering at 7.6 percent -- the target is 6.5 percent -- and inflation is well below the 2.0

percent level the FOMC sees would be healthy.

Most analysts say that means that the FOMC is likely to stay the course in this meeting.

But how Bernanke hones his hints on future policy in a post-meeting press conference Wednesday will be key.

"We do not expect Mr. Bernanke to yet show confidence that the time to taper QE is near," said Carl Riccadonna at Deutsche Bank.

"But the most important aspect of his media Q&A will be whether he signals that a second-half taper remains plausible."

The bond market has decided. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond shot up from 1.63 percent at the beginning of May to 2.23 percent in the past week, and the 30-year jumped from 2.82 percent to 3.38 percent.

Partly behind that were the seeming at-odds comments by Bernanke to Congress on the issue on May 22.

He first warned that tightening monetary policy now could stall the US recovery.

But moments later he said the Fed could decide to start reining in stimulus in its "next few meetings," taken as meaning as within months.

Since then stock markets have swung wildly from day to day as investors hang on every economic data point to confirm or weaken the interpretation that cutting QE is high.

Yet Bernanke has been at pains to stress that the tapering QE purchases would begin only if the economic data supports a picture of a consistently improving economy.

And the Fed has not yet concluded that, with US industry and employment still growing slowly.

Still, there are reasons for nervousness. Many investors fear a repeat of February 1994.

Tax evasion, bank secrecy: G8 talks tough, seeks teeth

PARIS (AFP) - Tax evasion and banking secrecy, hot topics and top targets because of the financial crises and austerity, could be the focus of strong statements at the G8 meeting this week.

The British government, organising the meeting in Northern Ireland, has promised big developments on the basis of substantial progress recently in clamping down on evasion and bursting bank secrecy.

But many observers from civic bodies are pessimistic and say that the summit today and tomorrow will amount to a lost opportunity despite the public outrage over recent brazen cases at a time of tax rises and budget cuts.

The tightening up of tax systems across borders, and opening up information on how businesses do their accounting across borders, are two of the burning issues for Britain which is currently chairing the G8 (Group of Eight) leading countries.

The G8 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Canada, Britain, Italy and Russia.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has prepared the way for the summit of heads of state and government by stating the "ambition" that the meeting at Lough Erne will "knock down the walls of banking secrecy" with "concrete measures".

French President Francois Hollande, badly bruised by a recent scandal involving an admission by his budget minister Jerome Cahuzac, also responsible for fighting tax evasion, that he had hidden money abroad, has said: "Tax havens must be eradicated in Europe and throughout the world."

The climate has turned strongly in favour of tough ac-



tion: pressure on these two fronts, which seemed to have eased after progress in 2009, is again at a high pitch.

First, a new law in the United States, called Fatca, obliges all banks to provide US authorities with all information they hold concerning all assets owned by US taxpayers.

Meanwhile, revelations by journalists, known as "Offshore Leaks", have further strengthened the perception that no bank account can be considered secret and that hidden funds are liable to exposure.

The consequence of this is that the gates of some strongholds of banking secrecy, such as Switzerland, are beginning to give way.

The European Union, in which some countries have arrangements considered favourable to those seeking to dissimulate funds, seems to be overcoming internal divisions and trying to catch up with the United States, even though Austria and Luxembourg still show some reticence.

The G8 leaders are expected to make strong statements calling for a "truly global system of multinational information exchange," according to a draft final statement. But concrete measures appear unlikely.

Cameron has opened a second front to combat strategies by multinational companies to avoid paying tax via transfer pricing and other techniques to generate costs in high-tax countries and profits in low-tax countries or tax havens.

Public opinion in several countries, already inflamed by stories of tax evasion and tax avoidance at a time of austerity, has been roused further by revelations in the United States and Europe that international brands such as Starbucks, Google, Amazon and Apple, pay little tax in countries where they have high-volume business.

In Northern Ireland, the G8 leaders, all of whom are facing national budget pressures, will support an action plan to be put forward soon by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. But even under this program, hard-hitting measures will have to wait, mainly because of diverging interests.

Sources in Paris which are close to the talks said that "France is most interested in digital issues" while "American negotiators are not particularly enthusiastic."

One of the most sensitive matters concerns trusts and other structures which can be used as legal shields to conceal the identities of people with offshore activities and assets.

Britain has put transparency in this field on the agenda, saying that change is needed also to help fight the laundering of illicit funds.

Cameron, to show goodwill, has also urged British crown dependencies and territories such as the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands, reputed to be flourishing tax havens, to join in and ramp up their cooperation against evasion.

However, the outcome of this appeal is unclear since some of them, such as Bermuda, are reluctant to sign an agreement put forward by Cameron. This could be a blow to the position taken by the G8.



ALLAHABAD: AFP photo shows an Indian farmer working in his sunflower field near Allahabad. Sunflower is an important oil seed crop and in India it gained popularity amongst farmers due to the national priority of vegetable oil production. According to estimates of the trade and the Vanaspati Manufacturers's Association, 3,88,000 hectares of sunflower is being cultivated in India.

The Rebound of San Nicolas



By: Roland W. Peterson

In San Nicolas we don't claim that San Nicolas is better than the rest, but we are unique and different.

There are some facts about San Nicolas (p'ariba di brug) that we all should know.

In our history we see that San Nicolas has proven to have enormous recovery strength.

It has proven to rebound again and again. It is this resilience that makes us unique and different.

No other town in Aruba has gone through these situations.

First we had the phosphate industry in San Nicolas (Seroe Colorado). It was a prosperous little town. The phosphate industry closed and things looked somber for San Nicolas.

Then came the oil refinery and with Lago we sprang back into shape.

For many years San Nicolas was prosperous again.

Then in 1985 Lago closed its gates and again San Nicolas started to hurt.

In 1990 the refinery gates opened again and slowly we started to re-emerge.

Today this resilience is improving and again we are going to prove that nothing is going to keep us back.

Although we are often for-

gotten, San Nicolas again is reminding all that we are here and with a determination like never before, at the moment again we have a fall back.

But what makes San Nicolas more unique and different?

Did you know that San Nicolas is the oldest city in Aruba? Did you know that San Nicolas in 1951 had a population of over 20,000 residents and was almost twice the size of Oranjestad?

That it started as a peaceful settlement of a few fishermen and their families living in small huts scattered along the southeast coast. All that changed in 1879 when the Aruba Phosphate Company began exporting locally mined phosphate. Subsequent demand, combined with the need for a larger workforce, prompted the makings of the town to begin.

Did you know that San Nicolas has a unique labor force, where quality and loyalty stands out.

That it is this work force that came to the rescue of the hotel industry p'ariba di brug. That the hotel labor force has a substantial percentage of people from San Nicolas.

Did you realize that San Nicolas has its own music? That our carnival music, ca-

lypso and road march started in San Nicolas.

Did you know that San Nicolas has its own cuisine, a food that is prepared nowhere else on the island? That the first Johnny cake on the island was prepared and eaten in San Nicolas.

Did you know that in the field of sports, bowling started in San Nicolas? That traps shooting and golf also started in San Nicolas.

As Arubans we are always proud to mention that we are multilingual, we speak four languages. Did you realize where that speaking of four languages started? It began with Papiamento and Dutch. Then came English with the arrival of the North Americans. Spanish I will leave to the reader's imagination. But it all started right here in San Nicolas.

Did you know that San Nicolas sacrificed its bay for the economic development of Aruba?

Did you know that besides the place with the most different nationalities, San Nicolas is also the town with the largest variety of churches and religions, on the island? That in Black Hill (Seroe Pretoe) the Lourdes Grotto was created by a priest and parishioners in the year 1958.

Did you know that San Nicolas has a Caribbean style like no other place on the island. Even a building style that is unique: a British-Caribbean charm of the town's former glory days.

Did you know that in Seroe Colorado there is a place called Red Mangroves (Rode Mangel) and that north of Boca Grandi lies the beach Black Mangroves (Zwarte Mangel)?

And so I can go on and on with my list of facts and things that make San Nicolas unique and different.

Maybe the town is in a dip, but the rebound of San Nicolas is already in motion.

Maybe this time we don't have a big company to come to the rescue, but this time we have you and you are making the difference by keeping the rebound in motion.

Kim Kardashian gives birth to baby girl: reports

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Reality television star Kim Kardashian gave birth to a baby girl on Saturday, her first child with rapper boyfriend Kanye West, news reports said.

Kardashian, 32, was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Beverly Hills five weeks ahead of her due date and delivered a baby girl, the entertainment news

website TMZ.com reported.

The website said West was present at the birth and had cancelled an event to promote his new album late Friday after Kardashian had complained of feeling a "little off."

US Magazine quoted a hospital source as saying the Kardashian and her daughter were "doing great and amazing!"

Adele, 'Blackadder' stars honoured by the queen

LONDON (AFP) - British singer Adele and "Blackadder" stars Rowan Atkinson and Tony Robinson were among those given awards in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours announced late Friday.

Adele, 25, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), which she adds to an already bulging trophy cabinet of several Grammys and an Oscar for the James Bond song "Skyfall".

Atkinson, the star of the hugely popular British comedies "Blackadder" and the later "Mr Bean" series, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

The 58-year-old said the award, announced to mark Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday, was a "genuine surprise and a great honour".

He was upstaged however by Robinson, 66, who played his long-suffering side-kick Baldrick and who received a knighthood.

Fittingly, the two men were honoured on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the first episode of "Blackadder" on June 15, 1983.

Robinson, who went on to present a popular television series about archaeology, said he was "thrilled, flattered and a little gob-smacked" to get

the honour.

"I also pledge that from this day on I'll slaughter all unruly dragons and rescue any damsels in distress who request my help," added the newly named knight of the realm.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to

purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



Welcome to Le Petit Café

In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor, particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

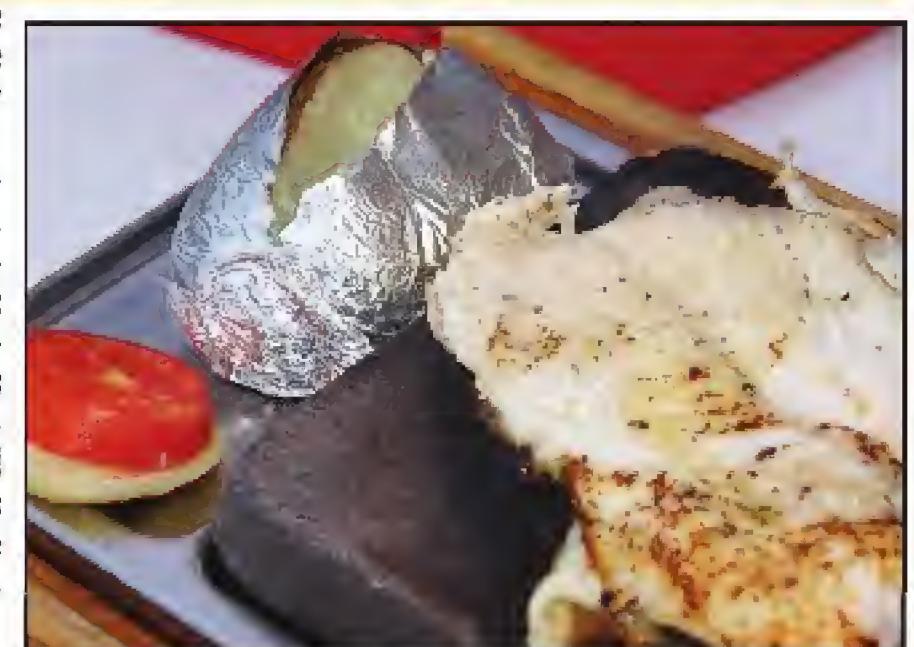
The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast buffet for \$9.95, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from your resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!



Fish on a Stone

Rays hurler Cobb leaves hospital

ST. PETERSBURG (AFP) - Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Alex Cobb left hospital Sunday, a day after he was struck in the head by a line drive off the bat of Kansas City Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer.

The Rays placed Cobb on the seven-day concussion disabled list, not long after the 25-year-old player tweeted that he woke up with just a minor headache.

The scary incident came in the fifth inning of Tampa Bay's 5-3 victory over Kansas City on Saturday.

With no outs in the top of the fifth inning, Cobb threw a 2-1 fastball to Hosmer, who smacked it back up the middle, catching Cobb squarely on the right side of his head.

Cobb immediately clutched his head and fell to the ground, where he remained for several minutes as medical personnel attended him.

It was the second time this year a pitcher has been hit in the head by a drive off a bat at Tropicana Field.

Toronto Blue Jays starter J.A. Happ was struck in the head with a line drive off the bat of Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings on May 7.

He remains on the disabled list, not with a head injury but with sprained knee ligaments suffered when he crashed to the ground.

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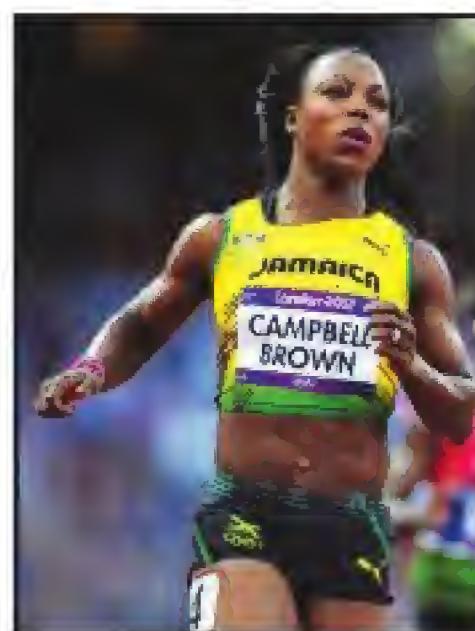
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SPORTS

Jamaican Campbell-Brown tests positive: reports



KINGSTON (AFP) - Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown has tested positive for a banned drug and won't defend her 200-meter world title this year, Jamaican media reported Saturday.

The Gleaner newspaper

and Television Jamaica both reported that the sprinter tested positive for the banned diuretic lasix, although an official with the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association said the federation had been notified only that a Jamaican athlete's "A" sample had tested positive.

The government minister with responsibility for sports Natalie Neita Headley stressed: "We continue to be proud of our rich sporting history and tradition and of all of our athletes who give of their best in representing Jamaica in the various sporting disciplines locally and internationally," she said in a statement that did not mention any athlete by name.

The Gleaner reported that the sample in question was provided by Campbell-Brown at the Jamaica Invitational on May 4 at Kingston.

Campbell-Brown has withdrawn from the June 29 Edmonton International Track Classic in Canada and will not compete in the Jamaican national championships next weekend or the world championships at Moscow in August. The Gleaner reported.

Campbell-Brown, who turned 31 a month ago, won Olympic 200m gold in 2004 at Athens and 2008 at Beijing but finished fourth last year at the London Games behind reigning champion Allyson Felix of the United States.

She took bronze in the London Olympic 100m and silver as a member of the 4x100 relay at last year's Games.



Brazil's Neymar celebrates after scoring a goal during their Confederations Cup Group A soccer match against Japan at Estadio Nacional in Brasilia June 15, 2013. Brazil went on to win 3-0 and take the first 3 points of the tournament.

Murray is king of Queen's for third time

LONDON (AFP) - Andy Murray was crowned king of Queen's Club for the third time as the world number two roared back to defeat defending champion Marin Cilic 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 in Sunday's final.

Murray was pushed hard by the Croatian fifth seed, but the US Open champion responded to the challenge with the kind of classy display that bodes well with Wimbledon just eight days away.

He picked up a cheque for £73,315 (\$6,300 euros) for his latest triumph at the pre-Wimbledon warm-up event, but more importantly his dominant week's work served as the perfect preparation



ahead of his latest bid to end Britain's long wait for a male winner of the singles' title at the All England Club.

The 26-year-old's third successful Queen's campaign in five years, following previous victories in 2009 and 2011, took his career haul of ATP Tour titles to 27 and ended his wait for a first tournament win since the Miami Masters in March.



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Job security doesn't come easy for NBA coaches

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - When Erik Spoelstra was playing college basketball at the University of Portland he decided to tell his father that he would one day like to become a basketball coach.

"He told me, he said 'Where did I go wrong? I've known too many coaches and they are all crazy.' He certainly didn't push me into it," Spoelstra said of his father, who was an NBA executive at the time.

Perhaps Spoelstra's father knew something that Erik didn't -- that NBA head coaches are hired to be fired.

Both Miami Heat coach



Spoelstra

Spoelstra and Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs say the lack of job security for NBA head coaches is a troubling trend and sometimes more about impatient ownership than it is about poor coaching.

Of the league's 30 teams, a dozen will have new coaches next season, including the Los Angeles Clippers and Memphis Grizzlies.

"I think it's a terrible state for the profession right now," said Spoelstra who is the first Filipino-American head coach in the history of North America's four major sports, comprising basketball, football, ice hockey and baseball.

"We don't see it as coincidence. I think it's really a shame for the profession of coaching that it's been so volatile."

Spoelstra's Heat are facing the Spurs in the NBA finals.

Popovich, 64, said the high turnover rate is disturbing and some owners make the mistake of taking losing personally and then go looking for a scapegoat.

"Some owners think it's easier than it really is," Popovich said. "It's difficult to win an NBA game, let alone playoff game-type situation."

"You don't just go draft or

make this trade or sign this free agent and then it gets done. It's very difficult.

"Almost like a little bit of an embarrassment because they've been so successful in their own way and have a hard time understanding this business.

"If you can have continuity, a good group, a team, so to speak, and all that that entails and keep it in a continuous manner so that it grows more or less upon itself ... you can deal with adversity. You cannot get too pumped up about success but just enjoy it and realize how fleeting it might be."

Popovich, whose father is of Serbian and his mother Croatian descent, has been a basketball coach for the past 40 years. He has coached the Spurs since 1996 and has four championship rings 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007.

Popovich is third all-time in playoff wins and first among active coaches. He has won more playoff games with one team than anyone in NBA history.

The sometimes surly Popovich, known to cut interviews with reporters short if he doesn't like the line of questioning, spoke at length on Friday about the difficult job of coaching.

But Popovich said he doesn't draw much on his wealth of experience when addressing his team, which boasts a core of veteran players who have won four titles and have plenty of playoff experience.

"I don't believe they're thinking of the previous championships. Those are basically in the Dark Ages," Popovich said. "They're a lot more experienced and they're a lot older at this point, but they're just thinking about what they can do now to beat a good Miami team."



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HEAT**



NBA FINALS

(Series best-of-seven)

Game 1: SAS 92, MIA 88 (Spurs lead 1-0)

Game 2: MIA 103, SAS 84 (Series tied 1-1)

Game 3: SAS 113, MIA 77 (Spurs lead 2-1)

Game 4: MIA 109, SAS 93 (Series tied 2-2)

Game 5: Jun 16 - 8 pm EDT @SAS

Game 6: Jun 18 - 9 pm EDT @MIA

Game 7: Jun 20 - 9 pm EDT @MIA

Ovechkin named NHL MVP



Washington Capitals player Alex Ovechkin led the league with 32 goals during the regular season.

Right wing Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals edged Pittsburgh Penguins star center Sidney Crosby for the NHL's 2012-2013 Most Valuable Player award announced on Saturday.

In voting by the Professional Hockey Writers' Association, Ovechkin garnered 1,090 points to the 1,058 of Crosby, claiming his third Hart Trophy in the past six seasons.

The Russian also won in 2008 and 2009. The margin of victory -- just 32 points

from a record-setting 179 ballots cast -- represents the closest Hart Trophy race since Montreal's Jose Theodore and Calgary's Jarome Iginla finished in a virtual tie in 2002, the NHL said.

Ovechkin tallied 32 goals in 48 games, including 23 in his final 23 contests, to become the first three-time winner of the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the NHL's goal-scoring leader.

He also finished third in the League in points (56), first in power-play goals (16), first in power-play points (27) and first in shots on goal (220).

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Balotelli, landmark Pirlo give Italy winning start over Mexico



Italy's forward Mario Balotelli (L) celebrates with teammates Daniele De Rossi (C) and Emanuele Giaccherini after scoring against Mexico (AFP PHOTO)

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - A goal 12 minutes from time from an effervescent Mario

Balotelli sealed a 2-1 win for Italy over Mexico in Rio's Maracana stadium on Sunday

in their Confederations Cup Group A opener.

Balotelli struck from close range on 78 minutes to give Italy a precious win as they joined Brazil on three points following the hosts' 3-0 win over Japan in Brasilia on Saturday.

Once again, protests by locals demonstrating at the cost of staging the tournament soured the build-up as had been the case for Brazil's match, with some 500 people milling outside the Maracana before police dispersed them with tear gas.

Italy took the lead in the 27th minute with a sumptuous freekick from midfield veteran Andrea Pirlo, the 34-year-old marking his 100th international appearance with a curling effort from 25 metres past Mexico keeper Jose Corona.

Even prior to that, Italy had looked to be in attacking mode as Balotelli fired in a low shot which Corona saved smartly before the former Manchester City striker almost deceived the keeper with a dipping salvo.

Pirlo then went down in the box after tangling with Emanuele Giaccherini.

But Chilean referee Enrique Osses was unimpressed as Jose Manuel de la Torre's

Mexicans weathered the early pressure.

Pirlo's breakthrough finally galvanised the Mexicans, who won the competition on home soil in 1999, into action and within six minutes they were level through Manchester United striker Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez from the penalty spot.

Gio dos Santos dispossessed Andrea Barzagli on the edge of his area before he was shoved by his rival and a penalty was awarded.

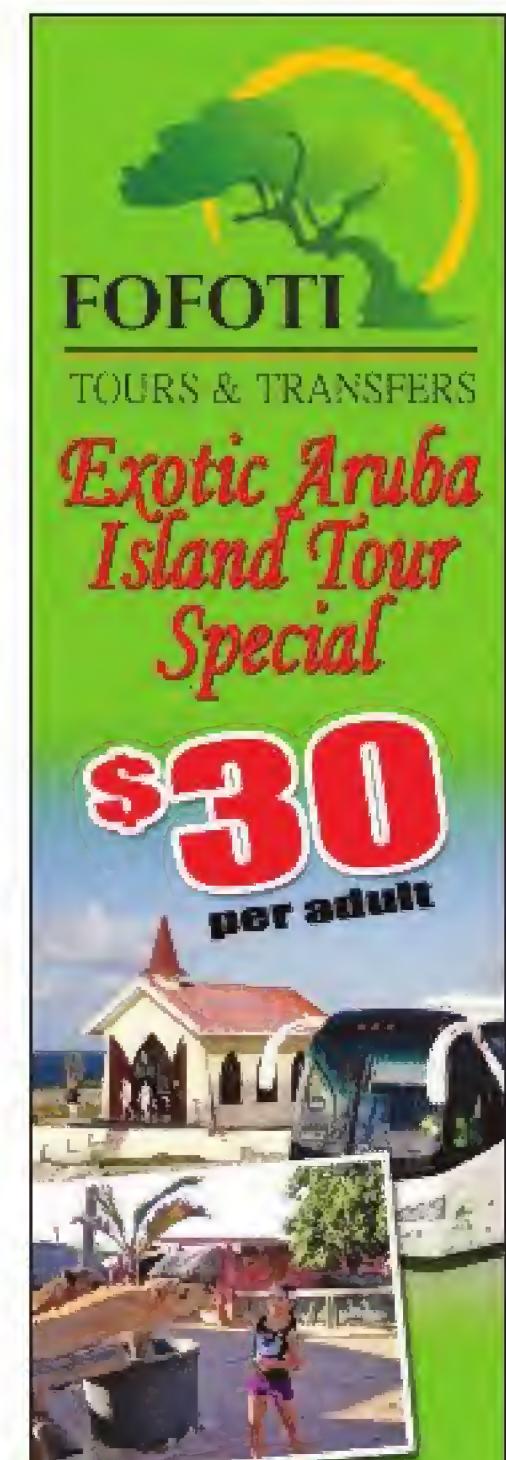
Italy coach Cesare Prandelli fielded no fewer than six Juventus men in his starting eleven but it was AC Milan's erratic Balotelli who went close once again as he drew another save from the equally busy Corona.

Hector Moreno found the best way to stop the former Manchester City striker was by illegal means and duly picked up a yellow card for a foul at the start of the second period before skipper Francisco Rodriguez tried the same technique and earned the same punishment.

Just after the hour Pirlo sent another trademark freekick just wide of the upright before Prandelli sent on some fresh legs in replacing Claudio Marchisio with Alessio Cerci of Torino.

A Gerardo Flores header was the best Mexico could offer as they faded away in the possible belief they had done enough to emerge with an eighth draw in 11 games, the series of stalemates holding up their attempts to qualify for the World Cup.

But Balotelli's late effort, firing in after a neat flick from Emanuele Giaccherini, stunned them and saw Italy take a giant leap towards reaching the semi-finals with Brazil and Japan to come.



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